GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:371
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
REDUCTION IN MONTHLY RATE
RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monthly rent of cellular phones and the charges of incoming and outgoing calls are being slashed frequently owing to the competitions between national and foreign companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the monthly rent and charges of calls on land line connections given provided by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and BSNL and to provide more facilities to the subscribers; and

(c) if not , the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUI MAHAJAN)

(a) Sir, Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) have been granted only to Indian registered companies and not to foreign companies. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is responsible for fixation of tariffs for Telecom Services in India. Tariff for CMTS have continuously shown a downward trend in the recent past due to greater competition in the market with the entry of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as third Cellular operator, and with the entry of fourth cellular operator in some of the Service Areas. Moreover, in the present commutative scenario in telecom, revision of tariff is a continuous exercise.

(b)&(c) No reduction in monthly rental and call charges is being contemplated at the present in view of the fact that the current rental charges for fixed telephones is below the cost of provisioning. BSNL has made all phone plus Services such as abbreviated dialing, call transfer/ forwarding, hotline, three party conferencing and Calling Line identification facility on land-line connections free of cost with effect from 22.1.03